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Lebanon: Unsettled conditions in the refugee camps
are posing an additional security problem. [REDACTED]

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LEBANON: UNSETTLED CONDITIONS WITHIN THE PALESTINIAN REFUGEE CAMPS POSE AN ADDITIONAL SECURITY PROBLEM FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] A LEBANESE OFFICIAL SAID THAT FEDAYEEN GROUPS HAVE ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR PATROLLING, MAINTAINING LAW AND ORDER, AND CONTROLLING ACCESS TO THE CAMPS SINCE THE WITHDRAWAL OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN LATE OCTOBER. THE FEDAYEEN, MOREOVER, HAVE BEGUN RECRUITING THE INHABITANTS AND ARE GIVING THEM BASIC MILITARY TRAINING.

FEDAYEEN ACTIVITY, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN UNCOORDINATED, AND WITHIN THE CAMPS RIVAL COMMANDO ORGANIZATIONS HAVE CLASHED. CAMP RESIDENTS HAVE ALSO BEEN TERRORIZED BY A FEDAYEEN WITCH HUNT FOR THOSE WHO ALLEGEDLY COLLABORATED WITH LEBANESE SECURITY FORCES DURING THE RECENT SHOWDOWN.

THE GOVERNMENT MAINTAINS THAT THE CAIRO AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR LEBANESE CONTROL OF THE CAMPS AND THE COORDINATION OF FEDAYEEN ACTIVITY WITHIN THEM. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE UNCERTAINTY, HOWEVER, BOTH AMONG SECURITY OFFICIALS AND VARIOUS FEDAYEEN LEADERS OVER THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT, WHOSE DETAILS HAVE NOT YET BEEN COMPLETELY NEGOTIATED. IT SEEMS UNLIKELY, THEREFORE, THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL RISK FURTHER CLASHES WITH THE FEDAYEEN BY MOVING TO RE-ASSERT ITS CONTROL AT THIS TIME.

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